



Feb. 23, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 413 “*Apprenticeship 2030 Commission*” - **Favorable**

Dear Chair Griffith and members of the Committee,

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) is a membership organization with nearly 9,000 CPA members. These CPAs work in public practice, private industry, government, non-profit, and education.

As accounting and finance teams look to widen candidate pools, upskill current employees, and develop their leadership, we believe an apprenticeship program can be an invaluable, versatile tool. In fact, MACPA worked closely with the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) as it developed the first professional apprenticeship for Finance Business Partners, now approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. Maryland is the first state in which the AICPA has registered its apprenticeship, and it is supported by a grant from the Maryland Department of Labor. This apprenticeship offers apprentices the opportunity to gain in-demand competencies and provides a path for skill development and job growth along with a globally recognized designation.

We support the intent of SB 413 in establishing a Commission, “*to examine and make recommendations to expand access to apprenticeships to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations*”. We believe the proposed Commission can benefit from the experience of the accounting and finance industry’s registered apprenticeship program.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments for your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Rebekah J. Brown, CPA
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Senator Jim Rosapepe
Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates